



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

TRINITY CLUB.

AUGUST 7, 1886.

Subject: "Clearing up."

Dr. Parker.—Now that we are pretty well through with the growing crops, it is a good time to clear off ditch banks, fence rows and roadsides. The front yard ought to be trimmed and made tidy and inviting and perhaps it would be well to give the back yard a slight brush too. Pick up the bones and put them in a convenient place and put the ashes upon them. Gather up all the old tin cans, iron hoops, broken glass and crockery and haul them to some deep gully. Clean up around the well and spring and keep them neat. I know some farmers who are raising ducks and hogs, boys and girls, goats and dogs, fleas and trash, all in the same inclosure, and they somehow or other expect their boys to be in love with farm life and their girls to be sweet tempered like angels. You ask one of these same fellows to subscribe for the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, or buy some book on farming, or come to our club meeting, he says "oh, no. I know enough; all I need is to do as well as I already know." All such men need light and sympathy. It will take ages of evolving to make a decent farmer out of such material. *Clean up.*

Dr. Bird.—Cleaning up necessarily belongs to farming. If we have grain or seed to sell they bring more when clean. Cleaning up hedge rows and ditch banks destroys harbors for vermin as well as it beautifies. These tares smother out things that are profitable. Keep them mown off and white clover and blue grass will take their places.

P. H. Joyner.—I know of no other work that attracts me more than cleaning up and protecting a farm and farm buildings. I doubt whether a man can be strictly moral who allows his farm to be overgrown with briars, thistles and sprouts. Our farms are our talents given to improve; and when called to render an account, we ought to be prepared to offer a good one. To kill sassafras cut them off at the top of the ground about the middle of August. I have tried it several times and it was effectual every time. Mode second by Dr. Parker. Dig them up and give the ground a liberal coat of stable manure. Mode third by W. W. Andrews.—Cut them off and pasture closely.

W. T. Ganaway.—All must admit that cleanliness adds to the beauty and value of our farms. When fences are all covered with vines and weeds they go to decay. Along the fence rows, especially on the roadways, occasionally leave an elm, oak or other nice tree to shade grazing stock and beautify the highway. All this work will add money value far beyond the outlay.

W. W. Andrews.—I am pleased with Prof. Ganaway's idea of adding money value. I have cause to doubt the morals of the man who suffers the plank to fall from his buildings, and expose his family and his stock to the inclemency of the weather; he is anything else than a good man. The bible doctrine is to do all things decently and in order. Purchasers in passing a farm out of fix are not careful to make known their business. You can measure a man by a glance at his surroundings.

D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

STILL THEY COME.

The farmers of Leicester township, Buncombe county, have organized a farmers club. Mr. P. Israel, Pres., M. A. Beachford, Vice Pres., J. S. Spivey, Sect'y, J. R. Lansing, Treasurer.

A FRANKLIN CLUB.

The farmers in Poplar Springs neighborhood, in Franklin county,

have a prosperous club. At their monthly meeting on the 31st ult., they gave a big dinner, had some interesting speeches on subjects pertaining to the farm, and had in addition a sort of a little fair to show what the members of the club are doing. Nearly everything grown in that section of the State, as the Franklin Times informs us, being on exhibition, such as corn, cotton, Irish and sweet potatoes, millet, tobacco, peas, tomatoes, fruit, beets, &c., &c. There were some stalks of corn 16 feet high, with several good ears of corn. This club is composed of the best farmers in that neighborhood, men who take an interest in the cause and are proud of their profession.

CROP PROSPECTS.

From all directions we hear good news about the crops. Early in the season the heavy and frequent rains were very discouraging, and much harm was done to the lowland crops, but the uplands have made up, in many localities, for the loss in lowlands. We hear many farmers in this section say they never had better prospects. One gentleman, near the city, told us he thought he would make, in one field, forty bushels of corn to the acre.

In the East, along the line of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, and the Atlantic & N. C. Railroad, the crops of cotton and corn—we never saw better.

In this section there will be a good August crop of cotton, so farmers say.

Upon the whole the prospect is cheering, thank Providence.—*Charlotte Democrat.*

HOME-MADE CHEESE.

One of our correspondents a couple of weeks ago asked for a recipe for making cheese. One of our lady correspondents, who is too modest, however, to permit the use of her name, kindly sends us the following:

In your issue of July 21st, a Wake Forest correspondent asked for a receipt to make cheese on a small scale for home use. I have seen no receipt given, so I will give one I saw used during the war:

At night take a piece of dried beef rennet about 2 inches square and cut it into small pieces and put it in a cup of water. Then put a tablespoonful of sage in a cup and pour boiling water on it. Let it remain until the morning milk is strained. Take two gallons, and stir these teas into it (after having been strained) set in a moderately warm place until a firm curd forms. Then turn into a coarse towel, tie firmly and hang up to drip. At 12 o'clock open and stir in a spoonful of salt and hang up again. Next morning have ready a wooden hoop large enough to hold the cheese with a top to fit inside the hoop. Place the hoop on a plank and line with thin white cloth, pour the cheese in and put cloth over it, fit the top on and put on a weight sufficient to press the particles firmly together. Press about 24 hours, then take out and rub butter lightly over and fit a cloth on and sew it closely to keep out bugs. Keep in a cool, dry place and turn often until dry.

Winston, Aug. 14, 1886.

—The Goldsboro Messenger suggests the use of sulphuric acid diluted with water for killing grass on the streets. A distinguished physician recommends its use, and says it will kill the roots of the grass and destroy it, so that continual cutting down will be done away with.

—John Cardwell, the man convicted and sentenced to be hanged in Wilkes county for criminal assault upon his own daughter, and who was taken out of jail and spirited away by his friends has been recaptured and is now confined in the jail at Statesville.

State Items.

—We learn from Mr. Newman, of Stoneville, that some parties have despaired of doing anything with their tobacco crop and have fallowed the land for wheat.—*Leaksville Echo.*

—It is said that a joint stock company has been formed to rebuild the spoke and handle factory which was destroyed by fire in this city night before last.—*Greensboro Workman.*

—Geo. Hauser, who raised the 106 pound watermelon last year, planted some of the seed from it this year and has melons on his vines which now weigh 40 pounds. The melons are yet in a green state and growing.—*Salem Press.*

—Farmers say that if the present fine weather continues a few weeks longer the corn on the uplands and sandy bottoms will be fairly good. They say tobacco is too far spent to make a crop, and that the continuous rain of the summer has exhausted the strength of the fertilizer.—*Danbury Reporter.*

—Mr. R. P. Reinhardt, of this county, made 2,766 bushels of wheat. The yield per acre is a little larger than last year, and the wheat is of fair quality.—The Catawba county Agricultural association will hold its exhibition at the Fair Grounds at Hickory on the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd of October.—*Newton Enterprise.*

—The Stokes county Democratic convention was held at Danbury on the 9th when the following ticket was nominated: For the House of Commons—J. Y. Phillips; for Clerk of Superior Court—James Ryerson; for Register of Deeds—J. E. Hill; for Sheriff—R. I. Dalton; for Surveyor—Gideon George; for Coroner—J. H. Carroll.

—Contracts were signed yesterday by Messrs. W. N. Blackburn, W. A. Lash, S. T. Wilder, and J. C. Bailey for the erection of four large store houses on Main street north of the bridge. Work will commence at once and the four will be one hundred feet front three stories high and running back eighty feet.—*Town Fork News.*

—Farmers are busy worming tobacco and turning stubble land getting ready to sow a big wheat crop of this fall.—Our people are very much excited over mad dogs. About six weeks ago, a dog ran through the yard of Mrs. C. A. Brown and bit a calf. The calf was confined in a pen, and died last Friday with a clear case of hydrophobia.—*Davie Times.*

—Governor Scales has commuted the death sentence of Gooch and Smith, the two men convicted of the murder of John Cheatham, in Raleigh in June 1885 to 20 years imprisonment in the State penitentiary. He based his action on petition of 800 citizens, backed by the recommendation of Judge Clark, the jury, prosecuting attorneys, and judges of the Supreme Court.

—A gentleman who reached here yesterday after a long trip through the State in a buggy, occupying several weeks, says the crops look well. The upland corn is by far the finest he ever saw. He says that crops in this state are much better, so far as his observation goes, than either in Georgia or South Carolina, in both of which States he has traveled extensively.—*Raleigh News.*

—Good rains since our last issue have done a great deal toward reviving the drooping crop prospects. They did not suffer a great deal, but a few days more of dry weather would have cut them short. It is said that there will be a splendid August crop of cotton made. Upland corn was never better, and some corn will be made in the creek and branch bottoms. We will not have a famine this year.—*Monroe Enquirer.*

—Ex-Gov. Holden has severed his connection with the Baptist church and joined the Edenton street Methodist church in Raleigh.

—Thirty penitentiary convicts passed through the city Thursday afternoon from Raleigh, en route for Hyde county, to work on the improvements that are now being pushed so extensively in that section.—"If there is anything that I can buy cheaper than I can make it, it is cotton," said a thrifty farmer the other day. He is one of the few farmers in this county that has good stock and makes his own meat and bread and buys no guano. The opening for that sort of farming throughout the country is immense.—*Goldsboro Argus.*

THE WAY WE SAVE MONEY.

For The Progressive Farmer.

Now is the time to begin to prepare for a wheat crop. The farmers of our township (Old Town) have been for years making their own fertilizers for wheat at a cost of \$15 per ton, and they find it equally as good as the high priced fertilizers. The PROGRESSIVE FARMER is now our medium to communicate to each other such information as may be of benefit to us, and I therefore hope you will publish our formula for making our wheat fertilizer:

Take 800 pounds dissolved bone, 50 pounds of rich, dry earth. Mix it thoroughly. If to be used in wheat drill, the dirt should be first run through a dirt sieve. We put about 200 pounds to the acre.

The dissolved bone costs \$30 per ton—the ammonia \$80 per ton. These chemicals can be bought from any first class chemical house. We buy ours by the car load.

Respectfully, W. J. P.

ENSILAGE AND ITS VALUE.

The subject of ensilage is always interesting. The farmers of Great Britain are especially enthusiastic in relation to the value and advantages of this form of fodder. A British commissioner appointed to inquire into the merits and demerits of ensilage reports as follows, among other things, upon the value of ensilage.

"It is obvious that unless the forage in a weighty condition be of more feeding value per acre than when saved in less weighty form there can be no gain to the farmer. It has been contended that the loss in weight, in the process of drying, is simply loss of water by evaporation, and that by avoiding this nothing is saved. If such were truly the case, dry forage should give the same feeding results per acre as green forage. No practical farmer would contend that it does so, and the difference is especially noticeable in the case of dairy stock. So far as we have been able to ascertain the opinion of competent men on this subject, we estimate the value of green forage well preserved in a silo at somewhat more than one-third, weight for weight, of the same material made into hay under favorable conditions.

"The very wide difference of value between good and bad silage cannot be too strongly insisted upon. It is found that grass well preserved in a silo, after deduction for loss, will yield approximately five times the weight of the same grass made into hay. We have, therefore, say five tons of silage, which, taken at one-third or the value of hay per ton yields a profit of over 60 per cent. as compared with one ton of hay. If we take it at one-fourth, it still leaves a profit of 25 per cent. Any waste that may occur to reduce the weight of nutritious forage, whether by evaporation or by excess of chemical change, must necessarily affect this calculation, which is based upon the highest degree of perfect preservation so far known to be attainable."—*Exchange.*

PHOSPHATES FOR GRASS.

The best time to apply phosphate to grass is with the seed as it is usually sown with some grain crop. In this way it serves a double purpose, helping both grass and grain. In this way the small quantity usually applied produces a decided effect. We should fear that top dressing with phosphate on grass land would not show much effect unless very heavy doses were applied. At the same price per ton for ground phosphate rock, and that treated with sulphuric acid, the latter would be much more preferable. The value of phosphate ought to be more generally rated by the amount in a soluble condition. The action of water, frost and carbonic acid gas in making insoluble phosphate available is slow and very uncertain. Much depends upon the condition of the soil. If it is full of decaying vegetable matter all its fertility is more readily available. On such a soil top-dressing grass land with phosphate might pay, though most farmers would say that such land did not need any help. On the other hand land badly run down is that no which resort is soonest had to commercial fertilizers. Farmers take to phosphate because it is impossible to make or buy stable manures. This is precisely the reason why commercial fertilizers so often fail. Farmers rely on them exclusively to make good crops on land otherwise unproductive. If they were only used on good land they would pay much better.

PECAN CULTURE IN TEXAS.

The Gulf Coast Progress thus sums up what may be done in the way of raising pecans:

There are more undeveloped industries in the South than are now known, and it seems passing strange that no man has ever thought of investing money in a pecan grove. 'Tis true that it will require ten years before it will return any income, but we all have to wait long before riches come to us.

And there is no one thing that in one to twenty years will pay so large a profit, not even the famous orange grove of Florida. There are in the South, millions of acres of land that can be purchased from \$1.25 per acre or less, that are the best of lands, to be put in pecans. The land can be deadened or girdled at a cost of one dollar per acre, and fifty cents per acre will plant the pecans. Then all that will be necessary will be to keep the bushes cut down until the pecan is three or four years old, when they will shade the ground; then it will be necessary to burn the old logs and it will be ready to bear. At fifteen years old the trees will bear four bushels each. This will be about \$800 per acre, or \$80,000 for 100 acres for an investment of \$1,000. These trees are subject to no disease; storms never blow them down as the tap-root runs fifteen to twenty feet deep. This is a good opening for some man who wishes to invest a little for his infant boy, that will make him rich when he is twenty-one years old. Try it, some one.

—There is a good deal of local excitement about the discovery of silver near Yadkinville. A piece of ore has been sent to Washington and the assay yielded 80 per cent.

—Mr. J. M. Odell, so well and favorably known in this city, has purchased the Bynum cotton factory in Chatham county at a cost of \$26,000. The factory will at once be refitted and run to its full capacity.—*Greensboro Patriot.*

—The corn crops between this place and Durham promise well. The cotton is not good and they say that tobacco has been badly damaged and will not make more than half a crop. In fact some crops have been entirely ruined.—*Chatham Home.*